

Application No.: 09/974040

Case No.: 56685US002

REMARKS

The remarks below respond to the Office Action mailed July 21, 2003.

Claims 1-15, 17-38 and 45-49 are pending in the application.

With this response, claims 1, 5, 19, 25, 29, 30, 31, 46, 48, and 49 have been amended and claims 3, 4, 33, 34, and 35 have been canceled.

No fee is believed to be due at this time.

Claims 1, 2, 5-15, 17-32, 36-38, and 45-49 remain in the application for consideration.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims, as amended, and in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-3, 5-15, 17-33, 35, and 46-49 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Perez et al. (6,331,343).

The rejections of claims 1 and 29 are overcome by amendment, by incorporating subject matter from claims that are indicated to be allowable, into independent claims 1 and 29. Certain other claims are also amended to cause features of those claims to be consistent with claims upon which they now depend.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of previous claims 3 and 4. Claim 4 is indicated to be allowable if re-written in independent form. Amended claim 1, now including features of claim 4, is believed to be in condition for allowance, as are claims 2, 7-15, and 17-24, which depend on claim 1.

Independent claim 29 has been amended to include the features of previous claims 33 and 34. Claim 34 is indicated to be allowable if re-written in independent form. Amended claim 29, now incorporating the features of claim 34, is believed to be in condition for allowance, as is claim 32, which depends on claim 29.

Independent claim 45 is indicated to be allowable. Claims 5, 6, 25-28, 30, 31, and 46-49 are amended to depend from claim 45. All of claims 5, 6, 25-28, 30, 31, and 45-49 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, at the Examiner's convenience, should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication or the present patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

Oct 16, 2003

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